

## Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 STR-04 XMB-02 TRSE-00

OPIC-03 AID-05 L-03 IGA-02 SSO-00 /035 W

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O 141826Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 160

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 8574

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BENC, IV

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CENTRAL  
SWITCHING OFFICES

REF: STATE 226937

1. CHARGE CALLED ON MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE KONAN  
BEDIE EVENING SEPT. 14 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF SWITCHING OFFICE  
CONTRACT AND TO MAKE POINTS IN REFTEL. CHARGE SAID MATTER  
WAS APPARENTLY URGENT IN VIEW OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING  
TOMORROW, SEPT. 15, AT WHICH WE HAD HEARD FINAL DECISION ON  
CONTRACTAWARD MIGHT BE MADE. BEDIE WAS OBVIOUSLY WELL  
INFORMED ABOUT THE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT(NORTH  
ELECTRIC REPRESENTATIVES HAVE TOLD US THAT IVORIAN AMBASSADOR  
TO WASHINGTON AHOUA HAD DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH BEDIE  
EARLIER TODAY). BEDIE SAID FINAL DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN  
MADE AND THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT ON THE AGENDA FOR  
TOMORROW'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. HE FULLY UNDER-  
STOOD IBRD REGULATIONS AND EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT  
IBRD HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED AS TO THE STATUS OF AWARD. BEDIE  
ASSURED CHARGE THAT HE WOULD BRING DEMARCHE TO THE ATTEN-  
TION OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY.

2. BEDIE SUGGESTED CHARGE ALSO SPEAK WITH PRESIDENT'S  
DIRECTOR OF CABINET GUI NAIRAY AND TELEPHONED TO ARRANGE  
APPOINTMENT. CHARGE MADE POINTS IN REFTEL TO NAIRAY WHO  
ALSO GAVE ASSURANCE HE WOULD CONVEY THEM TO PRESIDENT  
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HOUPHOUET.

3. LOCAL IBRD REPS INFORMED CHARGE THAT IBRD HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY FORMAL NOTIFICATION FROM GOIC AS TO THE EVENTUAL AWARD OF THIS CONTRACT. IBRD MANAGEMENT IN WASHINGTON HAS REQUESTED STATUS OF AWARD FROM GOIC ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS. LOCAL IBRD REPS THOUGHT IT VERY LIKELY THAT IBRD WOULD WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM THE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT SHOULD REGULATIONS CONCERNING OPEN COMPETITIVE BIDDING BE IGNORED.

4. WE HAVE INFORMED NORTH ELECTRIC REPRESENTATIVES THAT APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO GOIC AND THAT IT OUR UNDERSTANDING FINAL DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE AND IS NOT IMMEDIATELY IMMINENT. COOKE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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